

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2000

Natural soda ash production in January was 809,000 metric tons, 8% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 313,000 tons, 26% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.38 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December was 535,000

tons, 7% lower than the December 1998 level of 578,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in December 1999 were 342,000 tons and 10,200 tons, respectively.

The trends in year end cumulative soda ash statistics for 1999, compared with those of 1998, were as follows: production 1% higher, imports 11% higher, exports 2% lower, ending stocks 9% lower, and apparent consumption 4% higher.

**The average annual value for U.S. soda ash
in 1999 was \$69.11 per short ton.**

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1998:			
December	840	273	1,430
Year total	10,100	XX	16,500
1999:			
January	835	296	1,490
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,370
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
October	888	264	1,290
November	899	230	1,290
December	884	248	1,350
Total	10,200	XX	15,900
2000:			
January	809	313	1,380

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 2000 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN DECEMBER 1999 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	76,100	\$8,400	\$110
Argentina	35,800	4,770	133
Japan	27,700	4,240	153
Brazil	26,000	3,490	134
Canada	24,800	2,010	81
Chile	23,100	3,340	145
Colombia	21,400	2,870	134
Indonesia	19,500	2,290	117
Thailand	15,200	3,200	210
Saudi Arabia	15,000	1,460	97
Other	57,300	7,570	132
Total	342,000	43,600	128

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ January 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	2,680	13,800	--	--	14,000	--	22,000	--	--	14,800	10,500	35,800	114,000	3
Australia	6,000	--	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	6,460	--	10,300	11,500	--	45,200	1
Bahamas, The	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	108	108	(3/)
Belgium	--	--	18,100	14,800	12,000	18	17,500	6	9,000	5,110	36,100	5,010	118,000	3
Bolivia	--	150	--	450	--	700	--	27	--	300	--	830	2,460	(3/)
Brazil	24,000	21,900	--	12,000	27,800	--	--	46,900	--	73,400	10,200	26,000	242,000	7
Canada	21,200	24,800	24,500	19,100	18,200	20,500	16,500	21,700	22,100	22,600	23,100	24,800	259,000	7
Chile	--	21,100	--	24,500	--	26,400	--	25,500	--	29,100	--	23,100	150,000	4
China	4,500	--	4,500	--	4,700	5,000	--	12,300	--	4,200	--	4,650	39,900	1
Colombia	11,000	20,400	--	--	--	--	--	7,480	13,100	--	--	21,400	73,400	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	--	9,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,010	--	--	5,010	(3/)
France	--	30,000	15,100	15,400	--	--	--	23,500	--	--	--	--	84,000	2
Germany	--	--	185	--	114	--	--	--	116	--	232	--	647	(3/)
Guatemala	65	3,040	82	2,040	82	73	--	2,010	123	5,920	--	2,690	16,100	(3/)
Indonesia	16,000	--	20,000	20,500	19,000	16,500	23,000	45,000	--	66,100	26,500	19,500	272,000	8
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,100	--	--	--	--	5,100	(3/)
Jamaica	--	16	16	2,030	--	--	--	2,050	--	729	--	--	4,840	(3/)
Japan	27,500	36,100	10,500	37,900	7,040	41,100	35,500	9,500	35,200	27,700	16,700	27,700	312,000	9
Korea, Republic of	32,000	3,280	26,400	170	20,700	139	19,500	19,800	55,500	53	49,800	--	227,000	6
Malaysia	--	18,100	--	--	17,500	9,500	5,000	9,500	--	23,400	--	12,000	95,000	3
Mexico	38,100	37,800	44,700	31,300	53,900	20,800	50,600	62,100	48,800	51,900	28,400	76,100	545,000	15
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,000	--	--	6,710	--	7,500	21,200	1
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	3,960	--	--	3,890	--	--	--	7,850	(3/)
Norway	--	--	--	23	--	--	29	--	--	--	17	--	69	(3/)
Peru	--	3,100	--	3,450	--	3,620	--	2,120	--	3,600	--	3,650	19,500	1
Philippines	--	11,000	--	10,000	8,000	--	8,500	10,000	--	8,750	8,000	--	64,300	2
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,060	--	5,060	(3/)
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	389	--	--	389	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	14,000	--	15,000	--	15,000	--	--	18,000	--	15,000	92,000	3
Singapore	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	4,000	--	--	4,000	--	4,000	15,500	(3/)
South Africa	14,900	--	17,000	--	--	--	18,900	--	17,900	--	14,900	--	83,500	2
Spain	--	16,200	11,200	33,100	--	--	11,900	--	5,000	12,800	10,000	--	100,000	3
Suriname	19	58	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	96	(3/)
Taiwan	15,000	23,100	4,300	22,600	--	23,000	5,500	20,000	21,900	--	18,500	3,500	157,000	4
Thailand	13,400	14,000	23,400	21,500	17,300	15,300	15,200	18,700	--	24,300	15,700	15,200	194,000	5
Tonga	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	36	--	--	--	36	(3/)
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,900	--	--	2,830	--	--	--	2,800	--	--	2,790	11,300	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	6,000	--	--	18,000	1
United Kingdom	147	--	20	20	7,020	--	20	--	20	--	183	163	7,590	(3/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	794	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	794	(3/)
Venezuela	18,500	--	--	--	23,100	15,000	--	45,700	--	25,500	--	10,400	138,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	9,000	(3/)
Total	260,000	301,000	248,000	276,000	275,000	206,000	282,000	401,000	236,000	455,000	285,000	342,000	3,570,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ January 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1998:		
December	6,550	\$827
Year total	82,900	10,800
1999: 3/		
January	3,910	512
February	6,620	762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
September	9,120	1,080
October	8,840	1,080
November	7,690	959
December	10,200	1,220
Total	91,900	11,100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ January 2000 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1998:						
December	840,000	6,550	307,000	--	37,900	578,000
Year total	10,100,000	82,900	3,660,000	14,500	--	6,550,000
1999:						
January	835,000	3,910	260,000	22,900	--	556,000
February	749,000	6,620	301,000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8,810	248,000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7,990	276,000	--	24,500	590,000
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	206,000	--	67,800	729,000
July	911,000	7,750	282,000	11,700	--	625,000
August	803,000	6,410	401,000	--	22,700	432,000
September	824,000	9,120	236,000	--	38,400	636,000
October	888,000	8,840	455,000	10,300	--	432,000
November	899,000	7,690	285,000	--	34,000	655,000
December	884,000	10,200	342,000	17,900	--	535,000
Total	10,200,000	91,900	3,570,000	--	25,300	6,800,000
2000:						
January	809,000	NA	NA	65,200	--	NA

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 6
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE,
BY QUARTERS 1/

(Metric tons)

SIC Code	End use	1998 total	1999				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
32	Glass:						
3221	Container	1,610,000	395,000	425,000	407,000	390,000	1,620,000
3211	Flat	1,100,000	250,000	287,000	295,000	302,000	1,130,000
3296	Fiber	260,000	66,600	63,500	65,100	67,600	263,000
3229	Other	244,000	59,400	64,000	63,500	67,200	254,000
	Total	3,220,000	772,000	839,000	831,000	827,000	3,270,000
281	Chemicals	1,760,000	406,000	411,000	428,000	424,000	1,670,000
284	Soaps and detergents	704,000	179,000	181,000	181,000	188,000	729,000
26	Pulp and paper	134,000	32,500	29,100	26,900	32,100	121,000
2899	Water treatment 2/	104,000	32,400 r/	23,900 r/	25,400 r/	22,600	104,000
	Fluegas desulfurization	214,000	36,400 r/	33,000 r/	34,500 r/	26,000	130,000
	Distributors	317,000	78,300	82,600	79,500	89,000	329,000
	Other	102,000	20,600 r/	26,000 r/	11,400	17,200	75,300
	Total domestic consumption 3/	6,550,000	1,560,000 r/	1,620,000 r/	1,620,000 r/	1,630,000	6,430,000
	Exports 4/	3,650,000	872,000	976,000	975,000	1,020,000	3,850,000
	Canada	198,000	63,500	53,800	60,700	64,200	242,000
	Total industry sales 5/	10,200,000	2,430,000 r/	2,600,000	2,590,000	2,650,000	10,300,000
	Total sales from plants	9,890,000	2,370,000 r/	2,520,000 r/	2,590,000 r/	2,660,000	10,100,000
	Total production	10,100,000	2,460,000	2,580,000	2,540,000	2,670,000	10,200,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

3/ Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

4/ As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the Bureau of the Census for the same periods.

5/ Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.